

MATULASerial No. **09/763,229**

July 17, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of pretreating paper pulp, ~~in which method comprises feeding, either totally or at least a main part of, paper pulp~~ ~~paper pulp, either totally or at least the main part of it, is fed~~ by means of a gas separation tank feed pump (12, 120) into a gas separation tank (16) and from there by means of a fan pump (18) further to the head box (22) of the paper machine, and transferring wherein the paper pulp is transferred into the gas separation tank (16) from a white water tank (100) located essentially at the machine level by means of a propeller pump (120) also located essentially at the machine level, and wherein the method further comprises providing the gas separation tank (16) ~~is provided~~ with means for regulating the inlet pressure of the fan pump (18) without overflow and maintaining a the surface level height difference between the white water tank (100) and the gas separation tank (16) is no more than 9 meters.

2. (Previously Amended) A paper pulp pretreatment method according to claim 1, wherein prior to being transferred into the gas separation tank (16), of the fractions forming the paper pulp at least the filler fraction and the fiber fraction are treated separately in their own screening stages in order to remove impurities from said fractions, after which said fractions are combined to form paper pulp.

3. (Previously Amended) A paper pulp pretreatment method according to claim 1, wherein various sorts of fiber pulp contained in the paper pulp are treated separately each in its own screening stage.

4. (Previously Amended) A paper pulp pretreatment method according to claim 2, wherein centrifugal cleaning is used in said screening stages.

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5. (Previously Amended) A paper pulp pretreatment method according to claim 2, wherein a pressure screen is used in said screening stages.

6. (Previously Amended) A paper pulp pretreatment method according to claim 1, wherein the paper pulp is fed by means of a propeller pump (12) into the gas separation tank (16) directly from the white water tank (10) without employing special cleaning.

7. (Previously Amended) A paper pulp pretreatment method according to claim 1, wherein the paper pulp is transferred into the gas separation tank (16) from a white water tank (100) located essentially at the machine level.

8-19 (Canceled)